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Item 3 of the provisional agenda*
Implementation of decision 5/2 of the fifth session of the United Nations Forum on Forests

Letter dated 21 February 2006 from the Permanent Representative of Austria to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Please find enclosed a copy of the European Union proposal on a possible structure and elements of an outcome document of the sixth session of the United Nations Forum on Forests, containing part A, "Strengthening of the International Arrangement on Forests", and part B, "Draft international instrument on all types of forests" (see annex).

I should be grateful if the present letter and its annex could be circulated as a document of the sixth session of the Forum.

(*Signed*) Gerhard **Pfanzelter**
Ambassador

* E/CN.18/2006/1.

06-25094 (E) 230206

Annex to the letter dated 21 February 2006 from the Permanent Representative of Austria to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

European Union proposal

16 February 2006

Part A
Strengthening of the International Arrangement on Forests

- Preambular paragraphs, including reaffirmation of ECOSOC Resolution 2000/35, reference to CSD 2012/2013
- Global Goals and National Commitments
- Text on MYPOW, including prioritization of implementation and emerging issues
- Means of implementation
- Invitation to UNFF Secretariat, with support of CPF members, to develop Terms of Reference for country reports
- Text on UNFF Secretariat
- Text on Collaborative Partnership on Forests, including on joint CPF Initiatives (such as continued work on streamlining forest-related reporting) and on monitoring, assessment and reporting on sustainable forest management (reference to criteria and indicators for SFM)
- Text on working modalities (periodicity, location, regionalization of IAF meetings)
- Text on interim review (2011) and review (2015), including consideration of the establishment of a legally-binding instrument on all types of forests at the latest in the context of the review in 2015
- Discontinuation

Part B
Draft international instrument on all types of forests

Preamble

The [Subscribing] States[1],

- Reconfirmation of Rio Declaration, Forest Principles and IPF/IFF proposals for action;
- Recognition of valuable contributions of IPF, IFF, UNFF and CPF towards building consensus on forest policy and sustainable forest management;

[1] For the European Union, the added value of subscription depends on the level of adherence to and the contents of the international instrument on all types of forests, and on negotiations within the UNFF-6.

- Reconfirmation of UNCED, WSSD, MDGs; and the 2005 World Summit Outcome;
- Underscoring of multiple economic, environmental, social and cultural benefits provided by forests;
- Emphasis on contribution of SFM to sustainable development and to achieving MDGs;
- Expression of concern about continued deforestation and forest degradation;
- Affirmation that the sustainable management of forests is a common concern of humankind;
- Recognition of contribution of regional processes;
- Recognition that the shared global goals are mutually supportive and intersect with the seven thematic elements of sustainable forest management;
- Desire to enhance and complement existing international arrangements for the sustainable management of forests;
- Determination to sustainable forest management for the benefit of present and future generations;

Have agreed as follows:

I. Purpose

I.1 Purpose of the international instrument on all types of forests is to:
- strengthen the implementation function of the ECOSOC Resolution 2000/35
- strengthen the long-term commitment to sustainable forest management
- achieve the global goals

II. Use of Terms

II.1 Definition of terms used for the purposes of this international instrument, including:
- States
- Regional economic integration organizations
- Collaborative Partnership on Forests
- Forests

III. Principles

III.1 Principles should include:
- National sovereignty over and responsibility for forests
- Common, but differentiated responsibilities
- Role of international cooperation in supporting national efforts
- Recognize importance of forest governance
- Recognize role and contribution of private sector and stakeholders
- Recognize importance of partnerships

IV. Global Goals and National Commitments

IV.1 With a view to the achievement of internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, [Subscribing] States agree to achieve by 2015 the following shared global goals on forests:

Goal 1
[agreed ad ref.] Reverse the loss of forest cover worldwide through sustainable forest management, including protection, restoration, afforestation and reforestation, and increase efforts to prevent forest degradation;

Goal 2
[agreed ad ref.] Enhance forest-based economic, social and environmental benefits and the contribution of forests to the achievement of internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the Millennium Declaration, in particular with respect to poverty eradication and environmental sustainability, including by improving the livelihoods of forest dependent people;

Goal 3
[agreed ad ref.] Increase significantly the area of protected forests worldwide and the area of sustainably managed forests and increase the proportion of forest products from sustainably managed forests;

Goal 4
[agreed ad ref.] Reverse the decline in official development assistance for sustainable forest management and mobilize significantly increased new and additional financial resources from all sources for the implementation of sustainable forest management;

IV.2 [Subscribing] States agree to develop national targets contributing to the achievement of the global goals.

V. National Measures

V.1 In order to achieve SFM and the global goals and meet the related national commitments, [Subscribing] States shall:

(a) develop, further elaborate, where appropriate, and implement national forest programmes or other forest strategies;

(b) integrate national forest programmes or other forest strategies into national strategies for sustainable development, national action plans in relation to multilateral environmental agreements and, where appropriate, into poverty reduction strategies;

VI. Strengthening of coordination and international cooperation

VI.1 [Subscribing] States to cooperate, at the regional and global level, with other [Subscribing] States, directly or, where appropriate, through competent international organizations, on matters of mutual interest, for SFM and the achievement of the global goals

VI.2 [Subscribing] States to promote cooperation and cross-sectoral policy and programme coordination

VI.3 [Subscribing] States to involve stakeholders in a transparent and participatory manner in forest decision-making

VII. Monitoring, Assessment, Reporting, and Multilateral Consultative Process

VII.1 [Subscribing] States to monitor on contribution to global goals and achievement of national targets, and implementation of national forest programmes and other forest strategies, and report to UNFF

VII.2 Development of Terms of Reference for country reports

VII.3 Establishment of a process for facilitation, peer review and dialogue

VIII. Institutional Modalities

United Nations Forum on Forests / [Subscribing] States

VIII.1 The UNFF to monitor the implementation of this international instrument, including through monitoring of:

- mobilization of resources
- CPF activities related to the international instrument
- cooperation with other forest-related international processes
- forest law enforcement, governance and trade

VIII.2 To identify forest-related priorities

VIII.3 To consider and adopt amendments to this international instrument

VIII.4 To consider and undertake any additional action at the international level that may be required for the achievement of the global goals of this international instrument in the light of experience gained

Regional Co-operation

VIII.5 Work with existing regional bodies related with forests or FAO as Chair of the CPF, through its Regional Forestry Commissions, to

(a) facilitate and strengthen regional cooperation and close collaboration with relevant regional and sub-regional organizations and processes and through building regional partnerships

(b) be complementary to and avoid duplication of existing processes

(c) be open to UNFF members, members of the CPF, and major groups and interested parties

(d) [should be held in alternating years to the Forum]

(e) address issues identified in the MYPOW, including through assessing implementation and progress towards achieving the global goals

(f) provide feed from the regions to UNFF

(g) build awareness of the UNFF's work and the agreed IPF/IFF proposal for action

(h) ensure participation by the Forum secretariat

Collaborative Partnership on Forests

VIII.6 Text explaining relationship between instrument and CPF [to be informed by the outcomes of the UNFF deliberations]

Secretariat

VIII.7 UNFF secretariat shall serve as secretariat of instrument

VIII.8 Functions of the secretariat

IX. Means of Implementation [to be informed by the outcomes of the UNFF deliberations]

Financial Resources

IX.1 [Subscribing] States to:

(a) strengthen existing forest related funds hosted by CPF members, including the NFP Facility, PROFOR and Bali Partnership Fund to support national actions to implement SFM and commit to contribute to them;

(b) create effective enabling environment for private sector investment for SFM;

(c) develop innovative financial mechanisms for generating revenue or public-private partnerships within context of SFM

Incentives Measures

IX.3 [Subscribing] State shall, as appropriate, adopt economically and socially sound measures that act as incentives for the conservation and sustainable management of forests.

Research, capacity building and training and technology transfer

IX.4 [Subscribing] States to:

(a) develop, via IUFRO, CIFOR and ICRAF in collaboration with other members of CPF, a joint initiative on science and technology to support the implementation of the international instrument by assessing available information and producing reports on forest-related issues;

(b) promote, via the FAO in collaboration with other CPF members, exchange of experiences and good practices, and a clearing house mechanism to facilitate access by developing countries to better technology for SFM.

IX.5 [Subscribing] States to:

(a) promote effective protection, use and related benefit sharing of traditional knowledge in SFM;

[X. Subscription

X.1 This international instrument shall be open for subscription by States and regional economic integration organizations through submission of a diplomatic note to the Secretariat.

X.2 The Secretariat shall serve as an immediate central contact for receiving and announcing the subscription of States or regional economic integration organizations to this international instrument.

X.3 This international instrument becomes operational [...].]